

## HINDENBERG WAITS FOR REAL WINTER BEFORE STRIKING

German Commander of Kaiser's Forces in East is Confident He Can Take Poland Stronghold.

## RUSSIANS WELL ENTRENCHED

Tremendous Difficulties Must Be Overcome by Teutons—Swamps Before Warsaw Are Now Occupied by Germans—Flanking Movement May Be Plan to Oust the Slavs.

BY KARL VON WIEGAND.  
HEADQUARTERS, IMPERIAL RUSSIAN GUARD DIVISION, 37 miles from Warsaw, December 31.—(By courier via Skiernewice, Lodz, Posen, Berlin and The Hague.)—Marshal Von Hindenberg, the German commander in this field of the war, is waiting for real winter to begin. The usual below zero temperature failed to appear on scheduled time and proved an enormous handicap to the execution of his plans. As a result, the Kaiser's offensive against Warsaw has been partly checked until the Rawa river and the swamps in front of them freeze.

Winter saw Napoleon's destruction in Russia, but it will spell victory for the Germans, according to high military officials.

I spent eight days on the extreme front of the Kaiser's eastern Posen line, where a gigantic struggle is in progress. The struggle isn't only to decide Warsaw's fate but to end the present winter campaign and it will have an important bearing on the entire war. The Germans face tremendous difficulties which they only will be able to overcome by virtue of the superlative military organization which Marshal Von Hindenberg has created.

His strategy is backed by the wonderful work of his aides, Generals Mackensen, Litzman, Hans, Vondelow and others, and has forced the Russian steam roller back with heavy losses, until the swamps before Warsaw have been reached.

Here the Slavs have entrenched in great strength in three separate positions, one behind the other and flanked by the swamps. The question which confronts Von Hindenberg is whether to undertake to break the enemy's line or through a general flanking movement from the southward seek to force the Russian abandonment of Warsaw.

## CHICAGO WHEAT REACHES HIGHEST PRICE IN YEARS

MARKET IN PORTLAND HIGH—\$100,000 WORTH OF GRAIN CHANGES HANDS.

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—Wheat reached the highest price in years in the market here. May closed at a \$1.34 1-2 and July \$1.22, an advance of more than three cents over Saturday's close.

Cash wheat sold at dollar thirty two and three eighths. Buying was general. The demand was heavy.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 4.—There were actual sales today for March delivery of club wheat at \$1.26 on the Merchants' Exchange and more than \$100,000 worth of grain changed hands on the exchange. It was reported that Italy bought a cargo of wheat and is negotiating for more.

Following were the official prices: Bluestem, \$1.32 1-2 bid, \$1.34 asked; club, \$1.32 bid, \$1.32 1-2 asked.

## RUSSIAN INVASION CHECKED BY AUSTRIANS IS REPORT

SLAV COLUMNS ARE BROUGHT TO TEMPORARY HALT IN CARPATHIANS.

VIENNA, Jan. 4.—The Russian invasion of Hungary has been checked at least temporarily, military experts asserted. The Slavs were still trying at four points to force their way through the Carpathians. It was admitted, but the war office denied they were continuing to make progress.

At Gorlice the Germans and Austrians were cooperating. Petrograd claims the Russians won a victory there were contradicted. Accounts of an Austrian victory south of Gorlice were confirmed.

PETROGRAD, Jan. 4.—The Germans are sacrificing hundreds of men in vain night efforts to cross the Bura river, the war office announced.

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## FLOODS IN NORTH OF FRANCE HINDER MOST OF FIGHTING

All Streams Are Out of Banks and Troops Compelled to Evacuate Trenches to Escape Water.

## SLIGHT BATTLE ON RIGHT

At Other Points in Western Theater of War, Hostilities Have Practically Ceased, Even Artillery Being Forced to Suspend Operations for Lack of Ammunition.

PARIS, Jan. 4.—Military operations in northern France and Belgium were almost at a standstill owing to widespread floods. Even the artillery was out of commission for lack of ammunition. The trenches are brimful of water in many places. Streams are all out of their banks and the troops were forced to quit numerous positions to escape drowning.

Stalled transport wagons blocked the roads everywhere. A high, cold wind swept the flooded countryside.

Among the soldiers, sickness is increasing alarmingly. There are hundreds of cases of pneumonia.

Only along the French right wing was fighting in progress on a scale of any importance.

## MRS. EDWIN P. MARSHALL PASSES AWAY ON SUNDAY

ILLNESS OF WEEK RESULTS FATALLY FOR PROMINENT LOCAL WOMAN.

Following an illness of a week, Mrs. Edwin P. Marshall, prominent club woman and charitable worker of Pendleton, died yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock at her home on North Main street. Death resulted from intestinal toxemia which was complicated by myocarditis or heart trouble. The funeral will be held at the Marshall home at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning with Rev. Charles Quinney of the Church of the Redeemer officiating. Interment will be made in Olney cemetery.

Before her marriage the deceased lady was Miss Lynne E. Evans. She was born in The Dalles and her early life was spent in that city. She came to Pendleton about 30 years ago and was married to Mr. Marshall here. They have been residents of Pendleton ever since.

Mrs. Marshall has for years been prominently identified with the club life of Pendleton. She was one of the charter members of the Thursday Afternoon Club, was a member of the Civic Club, secretary of the Library Board, secretary of the Unattached County Historical Society and was an active worker in the Episcopal church. She was one of the founders of the Coffee Club, recently organized in this city for the benefit of the unemployed. Besides devoting

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## NEUTRAL'S HOPE AMERICAN PROTEST WILL BEAR FRUIT

ALLIES OF ENGLAND, HOWEVER, DO NOT WANT NOTE TO BRING SUCCESS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—All Europe, except the nations allied with Great Britain in the present war, hope that America's shipping negotiations with England will be successful.

Neutral nations believe the success of the American protest will materially increase their commerce. Diplomatic representatives, while refusing to talk for publication, say privately that England's attitude had caused enormous financial losses to neutral nations and they believe that if England relaxes her attitude it will be possible to send both food and cotton to Germany and Austria.

The food situation in Germany, it was stated, is rapidly becoming an important one.

## WOMAN IS APPOINTED TO THE SENATE FROM DOUGLAS

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 4.—Governor West announced the appointment of Miss Kathryn Clark of Glendale, to be state senator from Douglas county to fill a vacancy.

## How German Shells Damaged English Cities



(Top)—The result of the bombardment of Scarborough. This is the Hotel Royal. This was the finest hotel in Scarborough, which is one of the best known watering places in England. The German battleships stood off in the open sea some miles out and threw shells after shells into the buildings of the town. Several of them struck the hotel and the hole here shown was through the rooms of a guest.

(Bottom)—This photograph just received in the United States, shows

## WELL KNOWN PIONEER OF CITY IS SERIOUSLY ILL

THOMAS MILARKEY IS NEAR DEATH AS RESULT OF FALL ON ICE.

Thomas Milarkey, pioneer Pendleton property owner, is lying at the point of death at his home on West Court street as a result of a fall he

sustained last week. His condition was so grave yesterday evening that he was expected to succumb almost at any moment but this morning he seemed to rally. Hope is entertained that he will recover his health partly at least but the physicians admit that the chances are against him.

Mr. Milarkey fell during the slippery weather last week, falling on his hip and injured the bones severely. The principal injury from the fall, however, was its effect upon an old ailment and it is this that is making his condition so critical. Mr. Milarkey is about 80 years old and the infirmities of age make his fight a hard one.

chiefly for its beautiful old cathedral. Tradition has it that Robin Hood and Little John practiced archery from its towers.

The abbey was founded in the seventh century, but the buildings were practically rebuilt in the twelfth and fourteenth centuries. The old church towers formed a conspicuous landmark from the sea. The town itself never has been robbed by modern enterprise of its Old World charm.

Denmark Seizes Copper Cargo. COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Jan. 4.—A large cargo of copper, which is said to have been shipped to Denmark by a German-American in an attempt to smuggle it through this country to Germany by means of a false bill of lading was seized by Danish authorities.

## DETECTIVE DOUBTS TRUTH OF TALE AS TOLD BY PATIENT

Levings, Who Worked up Pender's Conviction, Puts Little Stock in Alleged Confession.

## MAN NOT HELD RESPONSIBLE

Officer Says He Could Get Sierks to Confess to Any Murder That Might Be Named—If Confession, However True, Pender's Case Falls to the Ground, He Declares.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 4.—Regardless of the truth or untruth of the alleged confession of John Sierks that he murdered Mrs. Frank Wehrman and her son, officers who have investigated the case still believe Pender shouldn't yet be given a clean bill of innocence.

That the confession may be true they admit. Detective Levings, whose investigations largely were responsible for the conviction of Pender, declared there were many discrepancies in Sierks' confession.

"If this confession is true, Pender's own case falls to the ground," said Levings. "I venture to say I could go to Salem, get in close touch with Sierks and get him to confess to the Hill murders or many other murders you could name."

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 4.—Superintendent Steiner of the Oregon Hospital for the Insane, declared there was no doubt in his mind that John G. H. Sierks, an inmate of the asylum, was the slayer of Mrs. Daisy Wehrman and her son, near Scappoose, for which John Arthur Pender had been sentenced to hang, but later was commuted by the governor.

"I think his confession is true in every detail," said Steiner. "He described the murder in detail and I'm convinced Pender is innocent."

## Baker Mayor Quite Ill

BAKER, Ore., Jan. 4.—C. L. Palmer, mayor of Baker, left for Hot Lake, where he will undergo treatment for a severe bronchial affliction which has been troubling him for several weeks. He has been so ill for the last week that any attempt at conversation has resulted in severe coughing fits. He expects to be gone for a week.

## NEWS SUMMARY

General.  
General Hindenberg awaits real winter before striking at Russians before Warsaw.

Floods in northern France and Belgium halt operations.

Battle in Alsace rages.

Detective at Portland doubts alleged confession of insane patient that he murdered woman and son.

Local.  
Mrs. Edwin P. Marshall passes away.

Water system and new fire equipment makes annual saving to property owners of \$17,000.

Thomas Milarkey near death.

Indian relic found while excavating, example of art of aborigines.

School resumes after vacation.

## BATTLE IN ALSACE LEAVES THOUSANDS OF DEAD ON FIELD

Most Desperate Fighting of the War Rages Today Near Steinbach—Shell Firing is Terrific.

## FRENCH GAINS ARE STEADY

Both Sides Lose Heavily—Tentons Reported to Be Developing Sharp Counter Attacks But They Prove Unsuccessful—No Chance to Rescue the Wounded from the field.

PARIS, Jan. 4.—The French gains in Alsace are slow but steady, the war office announced. The hardest fighting is along the line at Cerney, 10 miles west of Mulhausen, to a point a little east of Steinbach.

The Germans were reported to have delivered a sharp counter attack west of Cerney but were heavily repulsed. The French, it was stated, had captured the Steinbach church and cemetery and had gained slightly elsewhere at villages in the vicinity.

BERLIN, Jan. 4.—The most desperate fighting raged in Alsace. It centered about Steinbach where the advantage had seen-sawed for a week. Steinbach has been almost destroyed. The fields about it are covered with dead and wounded. The struggle has been so fierce that it was impossible to rescue the latter.

The French were directing a heavy bombardment against the German front in the vicinity of Thann and West Zennheim. In the latter neighborhood, shell fire had practically obliterated the Kaiser's trenches, forcing the occupants to retreat, but under cover of darkness they had recaptured the position.

Both sides lost heavily in the Alsace fighting but the French were far greater sufferers than the Germans. The official statement said the situation was unchanged in Poland.

## GARDNER AGAIN TAKES RAP AT UNITED STATES ARMY

DECLARES TROOPS OF COUNTRY IN NO CONDITION FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Testifying before the house committee on military affairs, Representative Gardner declared the United States army was sufficient only to garrison Paris or to fill a trench 65 miles long.

He contended that the militia of the various states was unprepared for emergencies. Gardner quoted figures given in the report of the general staff of the army, showing that 23,000 of the 120,000 militiamen didn't attend the annual inspection and that 21,000 absented themselves at annual encampments.

"America has only 443 completed modern guns and howitzers," said Gardner. "Russia in a single battle with the Japanese had 1204 field guns in action. We have sufficient guns only to equip a modest little army of 127,000. The shortage of ammunition is another serious deficiency. Eight of our field guns can shoot away ammunition as fast as Uncle Sam can make it."

## SAVINGS FROM CHEAPER INSURANCE WILL ALMOST MEET THE INTEREST UPON LOCAL GRAVITY WATER BONDS

Here is a New Year's booster story with some punch to it and incidentally it affords further justification for the gravity water system and the new fire truck, if such justification is needed.

Pendleton people, under the new insurance rates granted in return for the construction of the gravity system and the establishment of the present fire department, are saving not less than \$17,000 a year in insurance premiums. This is the estimate made today by Douglas Leffingwell of Bentley & Leffingwell, one of the best informed insurance men here, and the estimate is said to be conservative.

The reduction in insurance rates is not uniform throughout the whole city. The reductions varying from 10 to 50 per cent from the old rates. It may be computed that the rates with reference to business property in the main section of town have been reduced 30 per cent, the same reductions also applying to stocks of

goods. The reductions upon residence property will approximate 20 per cent whereas the rates upon industrial plants and other property such as school houses, lumber yards, etc., has been less, being counted conservatively at 15 per cent. The reductions as estimated upon the above basis and having in view the local valuations make the following showing, the data being given in figures showing the cash saving at present over what was paid prior to making the improvements here:

Business property	\$7,500
Business stocks	2500
Residence and household goods	4,500
Industrial, etc.	5,400

Total saving per year....\$16,900  
It is the belief of Mr. Leffingwell that his calculations do not cover all local property and hence under estimates the saving if anything.

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